AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a carcass;

a tread disposed radially outward of said carcass, said tread including an equatorial plane;

a sidewall including a shoulder that ~~intersecting~~ intersects said tread ~~at a shoulder~~; and

a belt reinforcing structure positioned radially between said carcass and said tread, the belt reinforcing structure including a plurality of cut belts extending axially into said shoulder, a plurality of overlapping spiral wound belt layers positioned radially between said plurality of cut belts and said tread and extending axially into said shoulder, and a plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers overlapping at least a portion of said plurality of cut belts ~~proximate~~ in said shoulder, said plurality of spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers formed by a continuous cord-reinforced strip having a strip width, said plurality of spiral wound belt layers characterized by a first winding pitch of greater than or equal to one strip width per revolution, and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers characterized by a second winding pitch of less than one strip width per revolution.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers includes four spiral wound shoulder layers.

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 3 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.

5. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.

6. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said belt reinforcing structure includes six cut belt layers[[,]] and two spiral wound belt layers ~~and six spiral wound shoulder layers~~.

7. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 6 wherein at least two of said spiral wound shoulder layers are applied with a second winding pitch of about zero.

8. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers are wound with a zero degree spiral overlay.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of reinforcing ~~the shoulder~~ first and second shoulders of a pneumatic tire, comprising:

applying a plurality of cut belt layers to a carcass;

winding a cord-reinforced strip circumferentially about the plurality of cut belt layers with a first winding pitch in an axial direction greater than or equal to one strip width to form a first spiral wound belt layer extending from a location proximate to the second shoulder to a location proximate to the first shoulder; [[and]]

winding the cord-reinforced strip with a second winding pitch in the axial direction less than one strip width proximate [[each]] the first shoulder of the tire for applying a first plurality of overlapping spiral wound shoulder [[belts]] layers at [[each]] the first shoulder having a partially overlapping relationship with a first lateral free [[edges]] edge of said cut belt layers;

winding the cord-reinforced strip circumferentially about the first spiral wound belt layer at the first winding pitch to form a second spiral wound belt layer extending from the first shoulder to the second shoulder; and

winding the cord-reinforced strip with the second winding pitch proximate the second shoulder of the tire for applying a second plurality of overlapping spiral wound shoulder layers having a partially overlapping relationship with a second lateral free edge of said cut belt layers.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers are wound with a zero degree spiral overlay.

17-19. (Cancelled)